

The Athenian Mercury:

Saturday, March 31. 1694.

Gentlemen,

Quest. 1.

WE are confident the Learned Athenians have met with the Report of the wonderful Cures which have been wrought by the *Vulnery Powder*, and the Drops, called *Tinctura Sulphuris Veneris*, lately found out by that ingenious Chymist Mr. John Colbatch in St. Anns-Court near Soho-Square; who hath made above twenty Experiments in the presence of many of the most able Chyrurgions, and as Learned Physicians as any in the Town. And particularly the Famous Mr. Cooper ripped up a Dog's Belly, took out a Gut, and cut it through with his Incision-Knife, making a greater Wound than any Sword can make with a thrust: And in few days after cut off the same Dogs Thigh, near the Trunk of his Body; and this Medicine alone stopped the bleeding, and shut up the Mouths of the Arteries in a very little time, without any bandage or cauterizing, and the Dog continues in perfect health. There have since been several Amputations made on Cripples in St. Bartholomews Hospital; one hath had a Leg, another an Arm cut off, and the great fluxes of blood from the Arteries were stoppt by this Medicine only, without any Cauterizing or Ligature, as afore is said. The expert Mr. Cooper hath sent a Memorial of the several Operations by him made, to the Royal Society of Gresham-Colledge, to testifie those wonderful Cures, which we doubt not but some of you have seen. Gentlemen, We have been informed of the truth of these Relations by more than ten Eye-witnesses; and we admire that the same Medicine can have so strong Stiptick and Balsamick Qualities with one and the same application; which not onely stops the greatest fluxes of blood, but cements the divided parts, and heals the Wound at the same time. If some of those Experienced Chyrurgions, who have themselves made and seen the aforesaid Experiments, care not to own them, as being against their Interest, because contrary to their usual Method of Practice, that is no concern of ours. Therefore, We will only suppose those Relations true (which we have no Reason to doubt) and upon that bare supposition only, we desire your speedy Solution of the following Queries:

Query 1. Whether such wonderful and speedy Cures (not known to former Ages) will not embolden hasty spirits, cause a great many Quarrels, and consequently Duels, upon the presumption that the Heart is a small part to be hit, and other parts will be so easily cured? And whether it will not prove like the Invention of Gun-powder, wonderful in the Invention, but fatal in its Bombing Consequences? Or rather like the famous Doctors speedy cure of the Scabies Hispanica, which doth rather encourage lewd Persons in their Venereal Excesses than restrain them?

Query 2. Whether it be lawful (in this juncture) to sell these Medicines to the Enemies of the Confederates? or how can you hinder it, if you sell them to all that come to buy them? For if Merchants buy them under pretence to send them into Savoy or Hungary to the Confederates there, how can we be secured they shall not send them to the Common Enemy?

Query 3. Whether Souldiers (but especially Seamen) after the loss of a Leg or an Arm, whereby they become useless to the Government, (except they be Officers) we desire to be informed, whether upon a Political Account it were not better they should dye of their Wounds than be cured? we therefore say upon a Political Account (we know life is sweet to them, on any terms) since in time of War even amongst Winners, they serve only to fill the Hospitals, and are a charge to the Nation?

Query 4. Whether such an Invention may not be prejudicial

al to the Chyrurgions, some of which get their Subsistence by dilatory Cures, because their Medicaments will do no better, others (but 'tis to be hoped but few) only to make the Foot of the Account rise higher?

Ans. 1. The same Objection may as reasonably be made against all Medicines whatever, and equally condemns the common Laws of Nature and Providence, not only in respect of the Government of the World in general, but particular Persons, nay even the most sacred things must run the same fate; hopes of repentance may encourage ill men to the commission of any Villany, but who can be saved without it? we ought carefully to distinguish betwixt things, what they are essentially, and what accidentally; all Medicines either for the Body or Mind are essentially good, as they are the effect of Divine Goodness, and design'd for the good of Mankind; but if they be abus'd, they are only accidentally evil, this is owing to our selves, and not to be charg'd upon Providence, by any one that has either common Sense, Gratitude or Religion.

Ans. 2. This indeed is a Question of great importance, upon supposition of its reality, and fitter to be solv'd by better Heads and Pens than we pretend to have amongst us; however we shall with equal Willingness and Submission to wiser Men offer our Sentiments: First, We are askt, Whether 'tis lawful to sell these Medicines to the Enemies of the Confederates in this conjuncture? this is easily answer'd in the Negative, that by the Laws of Nature and Reason (upon which all other Laws are founded) we cannot do it, for self-preservation never read such a good natur'd Lecture, as to provide an Enemy with Weapons to fight against ones self, or with Antidotes to make him invulnerable against all efforts; this would be to descend a Class below that of Brutes, which know not how to be guilty of such a Folly. But to the Second part of the Question, viz. How can the Selling of this Vulnery Powder to the Confederates Enemies be avoided? for if Merchants come to buy them under pretence, &c. This indeed admits of a great difficulty, therefore to use the Querists own words, we will only suppose the relation true, and upon that bare supposition, We answer, that 'tis our Opinion that the happy Inventer of this surprizing Medicine gives undoubted Assurance to the Age not only of its certain Operation upon canine Bodies, but also upon humane; for upon our own knowledge, Nature provides much better for the Bodies of Dogs than Men: 'Tis not long since the aforementioned ingenious Mr. Cooper ript open a Dog and made an Incision upon one of his Guts, which without any application became well again, only by the friendly assistance of Nature: If this Vulnery Powder has the same effect upon humane Bodies, as not only this but several other Powders, nay even bare Nature it self has upon Canine, (which might very easily be try'd upon Criminals at any Sessions, or at the Hospitals, or in accidental Misfortunes) no doubt but the Nation will be extremely engag'd to the Author of it, and the Gentleman undoubtedly will not want Encouragement from his Majesty at this time of the day. Therefore to repeat the supposition of its being real, we answer after this Apparatus to the Question, that if his Majesty be pleas'd to order the Engrossment of what Quantities can be made, and that none be deliver'd out but upon affidavit made by the receiver to be employ'd to the use of his Majesties Subjects, and that such Chyrurgions or others as receive it be oblig'd to prove their way of its disposal, it will be very difficult to export any Quantity of it to his Majesties Enemies, which is the only expedient that would occur to us in such a Case.

Ans. 3. That Government whose Policies are not

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consistent with Goodness and Justice, can never be consistent with it self; perhaps it would be a very hard task to find Persons who deserve well of any Government, if those who venture their Lives, lose their Limbs, or are otherwise disabled, do not deserve (according to the degree) the Name of State Martyrs, and an honourable Treatment from every one; but Persons that lose a Leg or an Arm are not useless Members in a State, we have Examples enough to the contrary both amongst the Watermen and others. 'Tis ill debauch'd Persons that are not only Useless Members and Burdens to States where they live, but the very Procurers of the Evils it labours under, and ought truly upon a Political Account to be lookt upon and treated as the Original of all the Evils a Government labours under, and for which these poor Wretches become unpity'd Sufferers amongst some who have put off the common Obligations of Humanity.

Ans. 4. Not if these Chyrurgeons may procure the Powder at reasonable Rates, when sufficiently approv'd of; but what Patient would not give even twice as much to be Cur'd in six Days as six Weeks, especially where the Cure is desperate, according to the common Methods of Surgery.

In fine, the Querist having mention'd Mr. Cooper's Name, whom We know to be a very Ingenious Person of his Profession, and what's yet a better quality, an honest Gentleman, who no doubt as he has made the above Experiment, so also he had done several others since; the Success of all which may very easily be had of him by any Gentleman that will give himself the trouble of Enquiry of him; and We our selves heartily wish such Prodigious Operations may upon further Examination be made with equal Success upon Humane Bodies, which must be the Standard of its Usefulness to the Age.

Advertisements.

A Discourse of Tempting Christ. By John Shower. Printed for John Lawrence at the Angel in the Poultry.

Terrace's Comedies, made English; with his Life, and some Remarks at the End. By several Hands. *Octavo.* Price Four Shillings.

The Evangelical History, or the Life of our Blessed Saviour Jesus Christ, comprehensively and plainly related, with Practical Inferences and Discourses thereupon. In Four Books. I. Of the Birth of John the Baptist. Of the Conception and Birth of JESUS CHRIST; with an Account of what passed to his Entrance upon the Ministerial Function. II. The History of the Acts and Miracles of our Saviour, in the first Two years of his Ministry. III. A Relation of his Acts and Miracles in the Third Year of his Preaching. IV. An Account of his Acts and Preaching, from the triumphant Entrance into Jerusalem. Of his Crucifixion, Resurrection, Apparitions and glorious Ascension into

Heaven. *With a large Practical Introduction by way of Preface.* Written in French by the Learned L. E. du Pin, and Englished by a Divine of the Church of England, with Additions. Adorn'd with Copper Cuts. *Octavo.* Price 3 Shillings and 6 Pence.

Both Printed for Abel Small and T. Childe, at the Unicorn at the West-End of St. Pauls Church-yard. 1694.

The Art of Patience and Balm of Gilead under all Afflictions, an Appendix to the Art of Contentment. By the Author of *The whole Duty of Man.* The Second Impression with additional Prayers suitable to the several Occasions. Printed for E. Mory at the Three Bibles in St. Paul's Church-yard. 1694.

A Collection of Paintings, beyond any before expos'd to Sale in England, with other Valuable Curiosities, to several Thousand Pounds Value, are now to be seen next Bedford-Gate in Charles-street, Covent-Garden, to be dispos'd of by Tickets. And for satisfaction that the Sale will be fairly Managed, Sir James Bueler, Knight, Sir Stephen Evans, Knight, Sir Henry Furnele Knight, Nathaniel Castleton, Gent. and John Allen Gent. have pleas'd to Promise to be present to see the Tickets mix'd.

Whereas the above-named Gentlemen were Named in the last to a Sale of Plate, it was a Mistake, the said Gentlemen being only concern'd for this of Paintings, &c.

Whereas Margaret Cooper in her Sale of East India goods, Proposed the giving out of 14000 Tickets at 10 s. per Ticket, to be divided into 400 profitable Tickets, (as by the said Proposals doth more fully appear) a considerable Summ whereof is already paid in: Now to answer all Aspersions of the Goods being too high valu'd, it is further Propos'd, that whoever shall draw a profitable Ticket which he dislikes, shall receive ready Money for the Same, abating 20 s. per Cent. No Tickets are to be given out after the first of May, which shall be drawn as is usual, the 400 Benefited Tickets to be made up with Blanks 14000, and drawn against 14000 Numbered Tickets, according to New Proposals, which are deliver'd at Mr. Thomas Williams in Lombard-street, Mr. Joseph Fells near the New Exchange, and at the West-end of Exeter-Exchange, above Stairs, where the Goods are to be seen from Nine to Twelve, and Two to Five.

Whereas a Sale of fine Lace and Point, was intended to be made, the 20th. of this Instant March, at Curriers-Hall, near Cripple-gate; Books being not quite full, it is put off till the 10th. of May, after which time no Tickets will be Deliver'd out. Proposals may be had of Mr. Ashfield at the Bell a Grocer in Bedford-street, in Covent-garden, Mr. Rose Sword-Cutler at the Sign of the Two Eagles in Ludgate-street, Mr. Ambrous at the Rattle and Mortar in Panton-street near Leicester-Fields, Mr. Burford Apothecary at the Sun in Leaden-Hall-street, and at Mrs. Fawceners over against the Conduit in Alderman-bury.

A Parcel of Sterling Plate, to the value of 4000 l. With the Hall Mark upon it, valued at 6 s 8d. per Ounce, will be thus sold, 16000 Tickets at 5 s. per Ticket, which will amount to 4000 l. Sterling, will be deliver'd out, and the like Summ in Plate to answer the 4000 l. will be divided into 402 Profitable Tickets; the highest Benefit Ticket 300 l. the lowest Benefit Ticket 5 l. Any that have a Benefit Ticket, and desires it, may have the Value in Monies, deducting 1 s. per Ounce for loss of fashion of the Plate. The Tickets are to be sold, and Proposals at large are to be had of Mr. John Bowman at the Flower-de-Luce, near the New-Exchange in the Strand, Mr. Robert Cole at the Anchor over against St. Dunstan's Church in Fleet-street, Mr. John Foden at the Golden Faulcon near Fetter-Lane-End in Holborn, Mr. John Burningham at the Black Raven in Newgate-street, Mr. Samuel Layfield at the White Horse in Lombard-street, Mr. Edward Barham at Ratcliff-Cross, Goldsmiths; Mr. Jonathan Millner in Popes-Head-Alley near the Royal Exchange, Mr. James Brindley at the Corner of Fetter-Lane in Fleet-street, and Mr. Marshall Smiths next Bedford-gate in Charles-street, Covent Garden, where the Tickets are to be drawn. — All which Persons stand engag'd to be accountable for the several Summs they receive.

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